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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**POLICE REMIND RESIDENTS:  
UNLAWFUL TO DISCHARGE PELLET GUNS IN TOWN**

**WAKE FOREST, NC – March 30, 2006** – Due to the recent popularity of Air Soft and BB guns, the Wake Forest Police Department is attempting to educate Wake Forest residents about the dangers associated with these weapons.

The police department has responded recently to several calls concerning individuals possessing and/or firing Air Soft and BB guns in town. A majority of the individuals found in possession of these weapons are juveniles who fired the guns at other individuals and property.

Police officials wish to remind residents that firing Air Soft and BB guns within the town limits is a violation of Town Ordinance Section 20-66 and section 20-67 (see below). Although it is not unlawful to own these weapons, residents who are observed by police to be in possession of an Air Soft or BB gun should be prepared to have them inspected. The similar appearance of Air Soft/BB guns with real firearms makes it difficult for police officers to differentiate between the two types of weapons (see pictures below) without examining them by hand.

For more information, contact the Wake Forest Police Department at (919) 554-6150.

**Sec. 20-66. Discharge of firearms.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge any firearm or other weapon of any type within the town or to shoot with a bow and arrow or any other weapon or device which impels or discharges with force arrows with metallic tips or sharp tips of any nature designated to penetrate and propel a bow or spring device except as a peace officer in the performance of his/her duty, or for persons lawfully defending their home or person, or discharging firearms at lawful firing ranges, or for members of the U.S. Armed Forces including the National Guard or Reserve while performing their duties.

(Code 1985, § 13-6; Ord. No. 2003-05, 1-21-2003)

**State law reference**—Authority to prohibit discharge of firearms, G.S.160A-189.

**Sec. 20-67. Discharge of pellet guns.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge any pellet gun or any mechanism or device designed or used to project a missile by compressed air or mechanical action with less than deadly force.

(Code 1985, § 13-6.1)

**State law reference**—Authority to regulate pellet guns, G. S. 160A-190.

**BB gun Confiscated March 29, 2006**



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For more information on the Town of Wake Forest, contact Bill Crabtree, communications specialist, at (919) 554-6196.